



Information for Croton-Harmon Families
K12 Alert from: March 17, 2020

Good Afternoon Croton-Harmon Families:

The Governor's Executive Order calls upon school districts to "develop a plan for alternative instructional options, distribution and availability of meals, and child care, with an emphasis on serving children of parents in the health care profession or first responders who are critical to the response effort." In our ongoing effort to keep families informed, here is some additional information to help us all navigate these ever-evolving times:

Childcare Survey for Health Care Workers and First Responders

As we have communicated in a separate K12 Alert, if you are a health care professional or first responder in our community and require childcare during the week between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm, please complete [this survey](#) by 2 pm today. Immediate attention is appreciated to ensure that we are ready to receive children as soon as possible.

Should you have any specific questions or are unable to complete this survey and believe you meet these criteria, please contact 914-271-5184 extension 3211 and a representative from the school district will be in touch with you.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Lunch for Free & Reduced Meal Eligible Students

The district will be providing Grab-and-Go lunch meals to our free and reduced meal eligible children during the school closure beginning March 18, 2020. Student meals will be distributed from the Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School's main entrance between the hours of 11:30 and 12:30 pm. Entry to the building will be through the main doors closest to the ramp and Welcome Center. The rest of the building will not be accessible. Should you have any questions, please contact your building principal or Tracey Borges at Tracey.Borges@chufsd.org.

Launch of eLearning

As we have communicated, the eLearning portal will be open at 8:00 am on March 18, 2020.

Social Distancing

Now that county and state authorities have enacted a school closure to reduce the spread of COVID-19, we are sure you are already dealing with decisions on how your child will continue the social interactions that are so important to her or his feeling of well-being. We ask you to please remember the guidance found today on the New York State Department of Health webpage, "Governor Cuomo is urging all New Yorkers to stay at home as much as possible and to keep a safe distance of 6 feet from others in public spaces to reduce the spread of Coronavirus."

Keeping all of our children safe needs to be a community effort. The CDC website clearly states that, although people are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic, "some spread might be possible before people show symptoms."

As you most likely know, yesterday the Village of Croton also declared a state of emergency, closing all village playgrounds, ball fields, and basketball courts to encourage social distancing. With village walking trails and passive parks remaining open it may be good to note some of the practical information provided by experts in yesterday's New York Times article, "[Wondering About Social Distancing?](#)" by Apoorva Mandavilli:

It's O.K. to go outdoors for fresh air and exercise – to walk your dog, go for a hike or ride your bicycle, for example. The point is not to remain indoors, but to avoid being in close contact with people.

If your children have any illness, even if it's not related to the coronavirus, keep them at home.

When you do leave your home, wipe down any surfaces you come into contact with, disinfect your hands with an alcohol-based sanitizer and avoid touching your face. Above all, frequently wash your hands – especially whenever you come in from outside, before you eat or before you're in contact with the very old or very young.

An [article just published this morning](#) asks, "Are playdates still OK?" The piece goes on to answer, "No, according to Asaf Bitton, executive director of the Boston-based Ariadne Labs... 'This sounds extreme because it is,' said Bitton. Skipping playdates is one way to practice the 'social distancing' that will slow the spread of COVID-19, he explained. The goal with all the closures, whether it's school closures, sporting events or theme parks, is to cut down on crowds and possibilities for new coronavirus cases."

Please remember that all of us here in the Croton-Harmon Schools are here for you throughout this time. Should you have any needs, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's principal or teacher. We hope we will all be back together before too long!

Sincerely,

John Griffiths

Assistant Superintendent

Denise Harrington-Cohen

Assistant Superintendent for Business